Library of Congress

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

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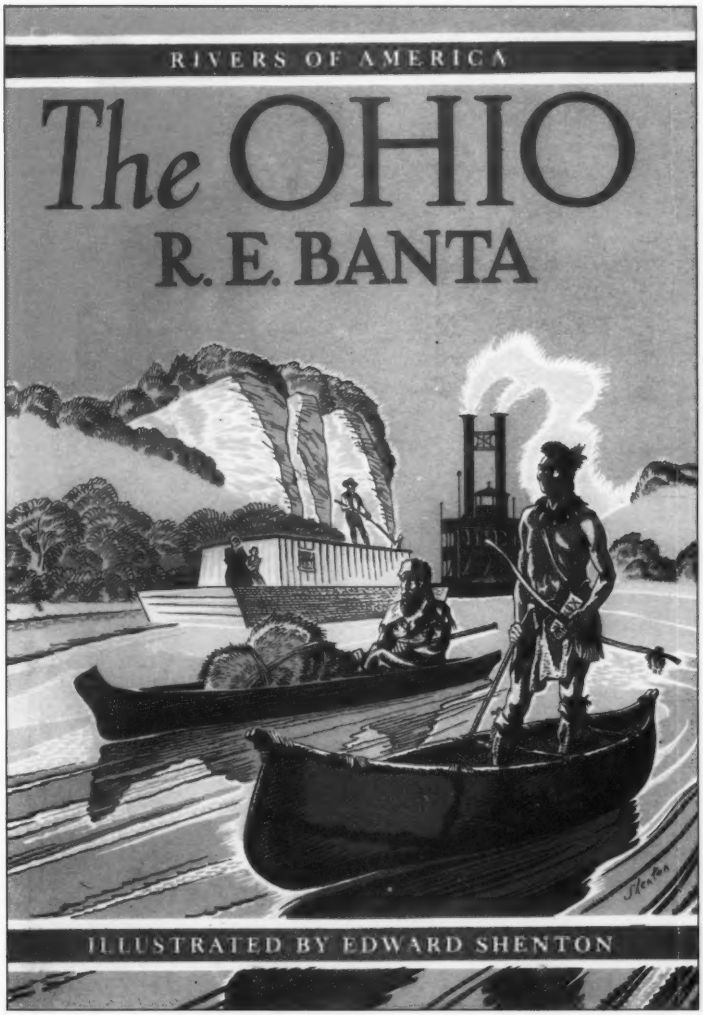


**'Rivers of America'**

Library of Congress

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

Vol. 56, No. 10
June 9, 1997

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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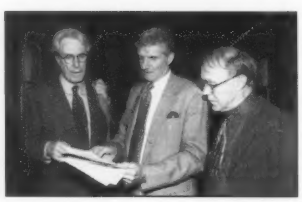

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**NOTICE:** Beginning this July, the LC *Information Bulletin* will switch from a biweekly to a monthly publication, due to budgetary constraints. It will, however, continue to report on the policies, programs and events of the Library to an audience that includes the U.S. Congress, libraries, learned institutions and the media.

The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued biweekly except in August and December by the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies, and allied organizations in the United States. It is also available over the Internet. On World Wide Web, use the following addresses: http://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib (issues 1997 and on). For issues before 1997, connect to marvel.loc.gov and look under "Events, Facilities, Publications, and Services" or use this address: gopher://marvel.loc.gov/11/loc/pubs/lcib.

Comparable institutions and organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Exchange and Gift Division. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin*, Public Affairs Office, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Avenue SE, Washington DC 20540-1610, email lcib@loc.gov.

GUY LAMOLINARA, Editor
JOHN H. SAYERS, Production

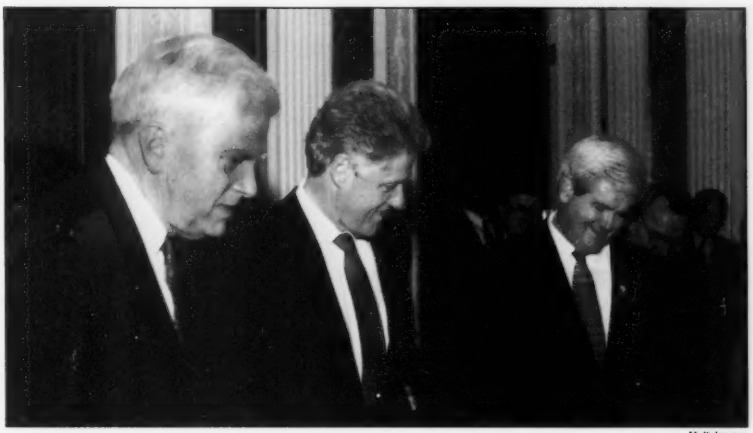
# President Reopens Jefferson Building

## *Clinton, Dignitaries View 'Treasures' Exhibit*

President Clinton chose to read from Thomas Jefferson's rough draft of the Declaration of Independence during an April 30 dinner celebrating the reopening of the 1897 Library building now named after the third president.

Following his reading, President Clinton talked about his tour of "American Treasures of the Library of Congress," a new permanent exhibition, on view in the Thomas Jefferson Building. The show features Jefferson's rough draft through July 31. He remarked that the words "we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal," were not entirely Jefferson's. Jefferson had originally held the truths to be "sacred and undeniable."

The president said, "Ben Franklin gets credit for saying that these truths are self-evident. And that's a pretty good edit. Would that we all had such an editor." (According to exhibit curator Abby Smith, Jefferson did not like the changes — fellow drafting committee members and the Continental Congress made 86 altogether — and criticized them to his dying day.)



Naltchayan

Dr. Billington points out a few of the notable "American Treasures of the Library of Congress" to President Clinton and Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) on a special tour of the exhibition prior to the rededication of the Jefferson Building on April 30.

"As these exhibits show, we are, and have ever been, a nation of creators and innovators," the president continued. "We are all Jefferson's heirs, and we are doomed sometimes to succeed and sometimes to fail. I was amused at the picture of the massive double circular kite that Alexander Graham Bell thought might compete with the Wright brothers. He would do very well on the Frisbee circuit today, I think, but it wasn't much of an airplane. But if he hadn't had the courage to try that, well, we might not have had the telephone. We must always maintain that spirit."

Naltchayan

Paul Allaire, CEO of Xerox, Dr. Billington and President Clinton were joined by Abby Smith, exhibit curator; Gerard Gawalt, manuscript historian; and Rikki Condon, exhibition conservator, who were on hand to answer questions about "American Treasures."

The president arrived at the Library about 7 p.m. and was greeted by Dr. Billington. They spent 40 minutes studying the "American Treasures" exhibition with Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.); Senate Minority Leader Thomas A. Daschle (D-S.D.); Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist; Rep. William M. Thomas (R-Calif.), chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library; Paul A. Allaire, chairman and chief executive officer of the Xerox Corp.; John Kluge, chairman of the James Madison Council; and mezzo soprano Marilyn Horne.

In addition to his interest in the rough draft of the Declaration, Presi-

Naltchayan

President Clinton and Sen. Thomas Daschle, Rep. Newt Gingrich and Dr. Billington pause to take a look at L'Enfant's plan for the city of Washington; the president takes special note of Briton Hammon's narrative and Susan Anthony's "Abolition and Sufferage," as explained by Abby Smith.

Naltchayan

dent Clinton was especially impressed by the music and motion picture materials, according to Gerard W. Gawalt, a manuscript historian who was on hand to answer questions. Ms. Smith said that the president mentioned he had wanted to read Briton Hammon's narrative (1760). She promised to send him a copy of the original, which tells "of the many Hardships [Hammon] underwent from the Time he left his Master's House, in the Year 1747, to the Time of his Return to Boston."

While President Clinton toured the exhibition, 675 guests from Congress, the Xerox Corp. and the Library's James Madison Council ate a buffet dinner on the mezzanine level of the Great Hall. At 8:15 the president, who was on crutches due to a leg injury, the Librarian and the others joined Mrs. Trent Lott, wife of the Senate majority leader; and Walter Scott, president, chairman and CEO of Peter Kiewit Sons' Inc., at a table in the Northwest Curtain, where most guests, including Mrs. Ted Stevens, wife of the Senate Appropriations Committee chairman, had assembled. Others watched from monitors in the Northwest Pavilion and mezzanine.

Dr. Billington opened the program by thanking the Xerox Foundation for its generous funding of the exhibition and reception. He noted that the exhibition is available on-line (http://www.loc.gov), and that many of its items came to the Library through copyright deposit: "The location of the copyright office in the Library of Congress provides a record of historical creation and creativity. ... American tradition is a living one. It adds the new without subtracting the old.

"The Library of Congress houses the largest and most diverse collection of recorded knowledge ever assembled on earth," he continued. "For almost 200 years, this collection has informed legislators, impressed scholars and inspired creators. Now, with the grand reopening of the Jefferson Building, we have an appropriate venue to delight and inform millions of visitors with this exhibition. We hope that all Americans will come here to see the cultural patrimony that the Library of Congress holds in trust for them."

The readings began with Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who clerked for Attorney General Robert H. Jackson, and whose papers are in the Library. As he cited Jackson: "The future of the court may depend more upon the competence of the executive and legislative branches of government to solve their problems adequately and in time than upon the merit which is its own. There seems no likelihood that the tensions and conflicts of our society are to decrease." Jackson had made the state-

N. Alicia Byers

Cutting a ribbon to officially reopen the Thomas Jefferson Building to the public on May 1 were (from left) Dr. Billington, former Architect of the Capitol George White, Rep. William Thomas (R-Calif.), Librarian Emeritus Daniel Boorstin, Rep. Vic Fazio (D-Calif.), Architect of the Capitol Alan Hantman and Deputy Librarian Donald Scott.

ment in 1940, during the 150th anniversary of the first session of the Supreme Court.

Sen. Daschle read from a letter from Thomas Jefferson to Sen. Samuel H. Smith in which Jefferson offered to sell his personal library to Congress after the invading British burned the Library of Congress in 1814. "I do not know that it contains any branch of science which Congress would wish to exclude from this collection ... there is in fact no subject to which a member of Congress may not have occasion to refer."

Rep. Gingrich then read from *Essays on the Principles of Morality and Natural Religion*, by Henry Home. Jefferson used the book in the development of his own philosophies. "People have an innate sense of right and wrong. When they act virtuously, they increase the general happiness of mankind. Thus, the pursuit of virtue and morality is the pursuit of happiness."

After his reading, President Clinton spoke of how "President Lincoln invoked the Jeffersonian ideal to heal a wounded nation as he stood at Gettysburg. President Roosevelt looked toward the world that would follow World War II, and he too called upon Jefferson for inspiration and courage. The words that he [Roosevelt] wrote then are as relevant today as they were in 1945, and I would like to close with them:

'We must do all in our power to conquer the doubts and the fear, the ignorance and the greed, for today science has brought all the different quarters of the globe so close together that it is impossible to isolate them one from another. Today we are faced with the preeminent fact that if civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships — the ability of all peoples of all kinds to live together and work together in the same world at peace.'"

"Documents both historical and artistic speak eloquently long after their makers are gone," said Mr. Allaire. "The Library of Congress is the perfect place to make these documents available. They are a symbol of democracy we often take for granted."

— *Yvonne French*

*Ms. French is a Public Affairs Specialist in the Public Affairs Office.*

Helen Dalrymple

The Library's May 4 Festival of Cultures opened with great fanfare, provided by Italy's Sbandieratori Casventum Sangemini flag-throwers. Dr. Billington joined them on the Neptune Plaza following their performance inside the Jefferson Building.

# A Festival of Cultures

## *Public Joins in Fun of Jefferson Celebration*

Rivers of people flowed through the marble halls and mahogany reading rooms of the Thomas Jefferson Building on Sunday, May 4, glorying in the reopening of the 100-year-old building and the restoration of its fine art and architecture.

During the preceding week of opening events, celebratory speeches and intense media coverage, the Jefferson Building was described variously as an expression "of the exuberance of the United States" (President Clinton), "the biggest treasure of all" (Dr. Billington) and "extravagantly ornamental" (*The New York Times*). CBS's Charles Osgood on the "Sunday Morning" show spoke of LC as "our library ... a great palace of wisdom."

The culminating Festival of Cultures, as the Library called its May 4 public opening, lived up to its billing. The event was supported in part by Xerox, which also is financing the "American Treasures" exhibition and its on-line version.

To the delight of many staffers and visitors stacked behind the Great Hall's marble balustrades, Italy's Sbandieratori Casventum Sangemini began the day with courtly fanfare; as flags soared, drums rat-tat-tatted and trumpets blared, the troupe's joyful noise reverberated from the glossy mosaic floor to the farthest cornice. The performers came to the Library courtesy of the Italian Cultural Institute, and their visit was arranged by the Library's Italian/French area specialist, Carol Armbruster.

Festivities continued without pause until the last foot-stomping Cajun tune of Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys from Louisiana set the South Lawn crowd to dancing.

Carried on currents of curiosity, guests visited the new area-studies reading rooms. In the Asian Division Reading Room, they saw demonstrations of Chinese calligraphy, Japanese flower arranging *(ikebana)* and Korean dancing. They heard flamenco guitar music, Armenian and Jewish folk songs and Manding griot music from Senegal in the African and Middle Eastern Reading Room. They watched

*continued on page 200*

# Celebrate

## The 100th Birthday of the Thomas Jefferson Building

**Library of Congress**
**Festival of Cultures**
10 First Street, SE
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
and
**Friendship House's Market Day at Eastern Market**
7th and Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Sunday, May 4, 1997**

Illustration by Susan Pear Meisel

Gail Fineberg

**Poster announcing the May 4 Festival of Cultures; the flag-throwers perform in the Great Hall; Dr. Billington chats with some of the younger visitors.**

Gail Fineberg

Gail Fineberg

Rep. Connie Morella (R-Md.) reads a Ukrainian story, *The Mitten,* in the Northwest Pavilion of the Jefferson Building. Dr. Billington preceded her with a reading of his own work, *Yak Tales;* below, spectators crowd the stairs of the Great Hall to get a glimpse of the Italian flag performers.

**Festival**
*continued from page 198*

the hand decoration of Ukrainian Easter eggs (*pysanky)* in the European Reading Room, where custom tours of the room were conducted throughout the day. And they visited the Hispanic Division Reading Room, which reopened in 1992, where a local band played a medley of Latin American music.

Some 8,500 visitors moved from the Great Hall into the Main Reading Room, around the central desk, and back out, and 4,177 trooped through the "American Treasures of the Library of Congress" exhibition. In the northwest curtain, guests lined up to see digital displays by the National Digital Library and book binding by the Preservation Directorate. On the ground floor, newcomers tried out touchscreen PCs in the new Visitors' Center. Next door, they bought $16,000 worth of merchandise in the new Sales Shop.

Outside, guests sampled native American fry bread, Thai treats and she-crab soup while weaving, bobbing or stepping to the exotic rhythms of Indian dancers, the rollicking beat of Celtic Thunder, the soul and swing of Legendary Orioles and Hand Dancers, the searing sounds of Sweet Honey in the Rock, the toe-tapping country tunes of Seldom Scene.

Greeting and guiding visitors all day were hundreds of staffers, many of them volunteers wearing special Library T-shirts. Their chores ranged from the mundane (ironing bunting) to the business of policing (there were no disturbances), nursing (tending to two injuries from falls and passing out bandages) and managing stage events (setting up an indoor sound system at the last minute for the Italian flag-throwers to escape cold winds on the Neptune Plaza).

Said Dr. Billington: "People came to see the refurbished Jefferson Building, and in the process they discovered our uniquely talented staff, who bring these buildings and collections alive."

— *Gail Fineberg*

*Ms. Fineberg is editor of* The Gazette, *the Library's staff newspaper.*

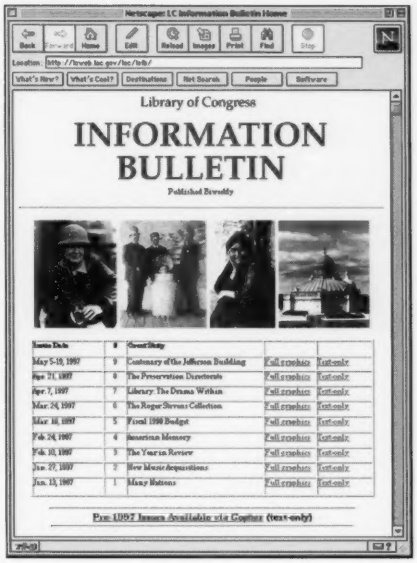
Gail Fineberg

# *Information Bulletin* Now on World Wide Web

## *All 1997 Issues and Images Available*

The official publication of the Library of Congress, the *Information Bulletin* (LCIB), can now be accessed on the World Wide Web. For the first time, on-line readers will be able to view not only the text of the publication, but also its images, many of which are drawn from the collections of the Library.

The *Information Bulletin* on the Web is at http://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/. Currently, only 1997 issues are available in the Web format; previous issues, however, are available back to November 1992 from LC MARVEL, the Library's text-based site (gopher://marvel.loc.gov:70/11/loc/pubs/lcib/). The LCIB Web home page also offers a link to the pre-1997 issues. Eventually, all issues of the LCIB will be converted for Web access.




The *Information Bulletin* Web page offers users both a graphics version and a text-only version, and no special "readers" or software are needed for viewing.

The *Information Bulletin* is now in its 56th year of publication. It is distributed free domestically as well as overseas to the U.S. Congress, public, academic and research institutions, learned societies and allied organizations, and to the more than 1,000 depository libraries in the United States.

Its mission is to report on the policies, programs and events of the Library to an audience of more than 12,000.

This July, the *Information Bulletin* will change from a biweekly to a monthly schedule, due to budgetary constraints.

# Earth Day 1997 at the Library

## *Film Festival Is Highlight of Two-Day Event*

The Library celebrated Earth Day 1997 with a two-day environmental film festival, April 21- 22, presented by the Science and Technology Division. More than 300 guests and Library staff, as well as classes from District of Columbia schools, gathered in the Pickford Theater to view recent films, furnished by the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), about this year's theme, wildlife conservation.

Among the subjects filmed were controversies about preserving such species as wolves and grizzlies; how the dinosaurs became extinct; and a tribute to the 25th anniversary of the arrival of Chinese pandas in Washington — film actress Debra Winger retraced her journey in China (see photo), following the footsteps of explorer Ruth Harkness, who in 1936 led an expedition to study pandas.

The Library's annual Earth Day programs date from 1990. One of the goals of Earth Day 1990 was to initiate a new decade of environmental awareness to surpass that of the 1970s. The Science and Technology Division offers a continuing environmental program, including informative publications.

The fourth edition of the Library's Earth Decade Reading List, a 24-page guide to the most recent information about the environmental crisis and possible solutions, is available free from the Library of Congress, Science and Technology Division, Washington, DC 20540-4750, or by phone, (202) 707-5664. Those who have Internet access can obtain the list from the Library of Congress at gopher://marvel.loc.gov/research/reading.rooms/science/bibs.guides/specialpubs/earthdecade.guide.

# 10 Institutions to Post Collections On-Line at LC

## *Library/Ameritech NDL Winners to Offer Diverse Resources*

Ten libraries from across the United States have been given awards totaling $600,000 through a partnership between the Library of Congress and Ameritech to digitize historically significant American collections and make them available for the first time via the Internet.

As a result, some of America's treasured past from regions throughout the country — such as 19th century sheet music, photographs documenting the settlement of the Great Plains and first-person narratives of Southern life in the 1800s — soon will come alive to millions via the Internet.

The Library of Congress/Ameritech National Digital Library Competition, a three-year program, made possible by a $2 million gift from the Ameritech Foundation, enables U.S. libraries, archives, museums and historical societies to digitize their collections of American historical materials for inclusion in American Memory, the Library of Congress's on-line collection of primary source materials in U.S. history and culture. It is available at http://www.loc.gov/.

The Ameritech program is the first effort to make unique collections from libraries across the United States available on-line via the Library of Congress to millions of children, students, educators and lifelong learners.

"We are delighted to be able to offer our support to these exemplary projects," said James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress. "Integrating these collections into our National Digital Library Program will not only enhance the depth and breadth of available materials, but also make it truly national in scope by providing access to collections in geographically dispersed institutions from our American Memory site, which already includes more than 400,000 items."

Yusef El-Amin

**Dr. Billington and Rick Ashton, director, Denver Public Library, during the April 10 telephone news conference announcing the Library of Congress/Ameritech National Digital Library Competition winners.**

"This is wonderful news for anyone interested in our nation's great heritage and rich history," said Lana Porter, president of Ameritech Library Services. "Ameritech is proud that its efforts will help digitally preserve thousands of American items from across the United States and bring them into libraries, homes and schools everywhere for millions to enjoy and cherish. This first-time endeavor truly boosts the national nature of the digital library effort."

The 10 first-year winners are:

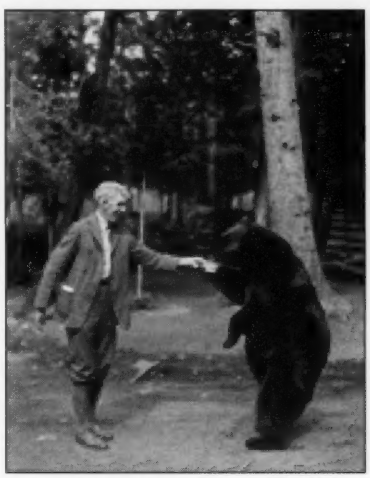
- **Brown University,** Providence, R.I., for *African American Sheet Music.* Award amount: $72,193. This collection consists of 1,500 pieces of African American sheet music from 1870 to 1920, providing a window into the daily concerns and pastimes of African Americans in the 19th and early 20th centuries.
- **Denver Public Library,** Denver, for *History of the American West, 1860-1920.* Award amount: $71,250. This collection includes 7,500 photos documenting the lives of the Plains, Mountain and Southwestern tribes of Native Americans and the mining booms in Colorado, plus access to 48,000 previously digitized images in the Denver Western history collection.
- **Duke University,** Durham, N.C., for *Historic American Sheet Music.* Award amount: $64,688. This collection consists of 3,000 pieces of historic American sheet music from the period 1850-1920, representing a wide variety of musical types, including bel canto; minstrel songs; protest, political and patriotic songs; plantation songs; spirituals; songs from vaudeville, musicals and Tin Pan Alley; World War I compositions; and Civil War battle songs.

• **Harvard University,** Cambridge, Mass., for *American Landscape and Architectural Design, 1850-1920.* Award amount: $33,214. This collection consists of 2,500 lantern slide images assembled to support teaching and student presentations in the field of architecture, landscape architecture and urban planning.

• **New York Public Library,** New York City, for *Small Town America: Stereoscopic Views from the Dennis Collection, 1850-1910.* Award amount: $74,596. This collection includes 11,552 stereoscopic views representing the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

• **North Dakota State University,** Fargo, for *The Northern Great Plains, 1880-1920.* Award amount: $15,628. These collections include more than 900 images documenting the settlement and agricultural development of the Northern Great Plains.

• **Ohio Historical Society,** Columbus, for *The African American Experience in Ohio, 1850-1920.* Award amount: $72,844. This digital collection of 22,000 pages of text and images focuses on themes such as slavery and emancipation, religion, public opinion and political actions.



• **University of Chicago,** Chicago, for *American Environmental Photographs, 1897-1931.* Award amount: $67,418. This collection of 5,800 photographic images documents natural environments, ecologies and plant communities in their original state throughout the United States.

• **University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill,** for *First-Person Narratives of the American South, 1860-1920.* Award amount: $74,782. This compilation of 100 printed texts documents the culture of the 19th century American South from the viewpoint of Southerners and includes diaries, autobiographies, memoirs, travel accounts and ex-slave narratives.

• **University of Texas,** Austin, for *The South Texas Border, 1900-1920.* Award amount: $46,945. A collection of 8,241 photographs of northeastern Mexico and the South Texas border area, including images of the diverse ethnic groups, military preparations for the Mexican Revolution and World War I, and the environment.

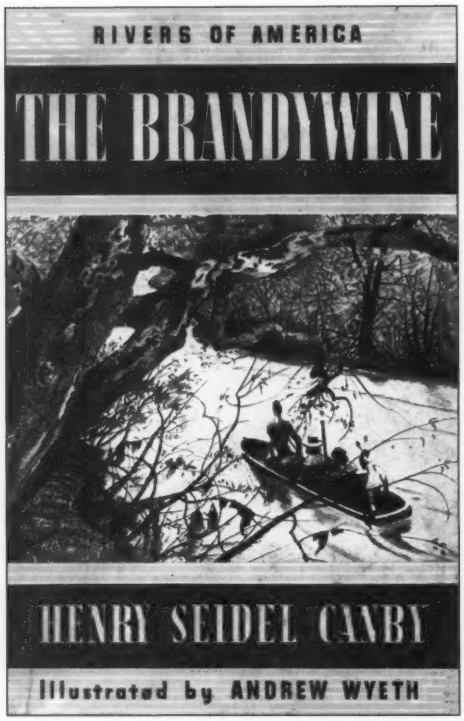
Approximately $600,000 in total awards to the 10 winners will be used to digitize collections of Americana at the institutions and making them available at the Library of Congress's site on the World Wide Web.

Nearly 80 award applications from 31 states were received for the first-year's competition, which were reviewed by three independent panels of distinguished scholars, educators, archivists, librarians, administrators and technical specialists.

In formulating competition guidelines and evaluation, the Library turned to the National Endowment for the Humanities for expert guidance.

Led by George Farr, director of the Division of Preservation and Access of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Deanna Marcum, president of the Council on Library Resources and the Commission on Preservation and Access, three successive panels evaluated applications for historical significance, technical viability and the relevance of collections to current and planned collections.

More information on the Library of Congress/Ameritech National Digital Library Competition, including summaries of the current projects, is available at the Library of Congress's Web site (http://www.loc.gov); the Library of Congress/Ameritech National Digital Library Competition Web site (http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/award); and the Ameritech Web site (http://www.ameritech.com).



# 'Rivers of America'

## *Library Celebrates 60th Anniversary of Landmark Series*

*by Barbara Bryant*

"The natural rhythm moving the pioneer life of America forward was the rhythm of flowing water. It is as the story of American rivers that the folk sagas will be told." With these words, Constance Lindsay Skinner discussed her plan in 1935 to commission a series of books for Farrar & Rinehart that would trace the history and folkways of the United States through its great rivers.

A Canadian-born author, historian and poet, Skinner (1877-1939) was one of the first women to hold a top job in the U.S. trade-book publishing industry. She hoped to see the publication not only of simple travelogues, but also literary works written by novelists and poets and illustrated by artists, all of whom felt a close connection to the geographical areas they covered.

Her ambitious plan to produce a 24-book series grew to more than double that number. Over 37 years, the "Rivers of America" series grew to 65 titles, beginning with *Kennebec: Cradle of Americans* (1937) by Robert P. Tristram Coffin and ending with *The American: River of El Dorado* by Margaret Sanborn, published in 1974. Skinner died in 1939, after seeing only the first five titles published and while editing the sixth, Carl Carmer's *The Hudson*.

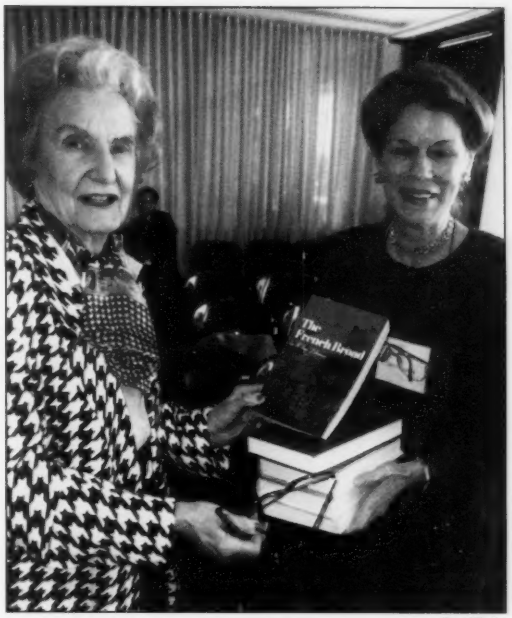
The series she initiated lives on. Approximately one-third of the titles are still in print and all of them are sought by book collectors. On April 9-10, a dozen authors, illustrators and editors of the "Rivers of America" series gathered at the Library of Congress to celebrate the series's 60th anniversary in a conference sponsored by the Library's Center for the Book in cooperation with the American Folklife Center.

"This remarkable series emphasized good writing, regional and local history, and an intense and admirable concern for place and community," said Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole, who organized the event.

Carol Fitzgerald, a dedicated series collector and its bibliographer, helped the Center for the Book organize the conference. Ms. Fitzgerald said she had begun collecting "Rivers of America" books in 1986 and now owns more than 300 volumes. "As I searched, it didn't take me long to realize that there was no bibliography or history of the series," she said. "In 1991 I began writing to any series author, illustrator or editor I could find." So far, her project includes a bibliographical description of more than 350 editions and printings of "Rivers" books, a publishing history of the series and biographical sketches of its 60 authors, 55 illustrators, three map-makers and about a dozen editors and publishers.

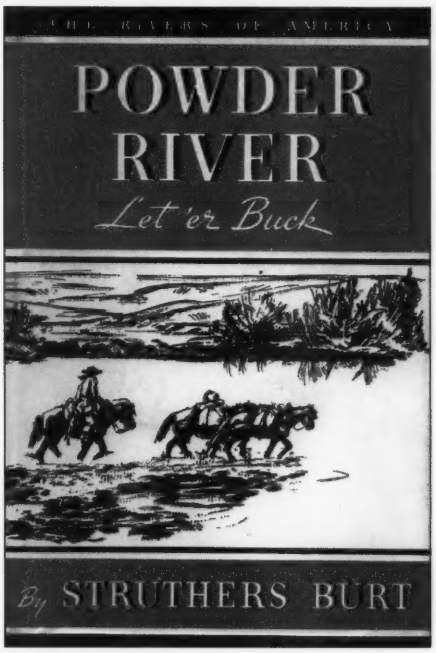
The "Rivers of America" book series was published by Farrar & Rinehart and its corporate successors: Rinehart & Co. (1946-1960) and Holt, Rinehart and Winston (1960-1974). The April 9-10 celebration was supported in part by a contribution to the Center for the Book from Henry Holt & Co., made "in memory of the major role played by Henry Holt in the genesis of the original series."

During the symposium, Walt Reed, co-author of the book *The Illustrator in America 1900-1960* (1987), characterized the series as "an ambitious and rather brave project to undertake during the waning years of the Depression. It was different from other series in that, whenever possible, editors sought to match authors and illustrators to the rivers they knew. The pay was low but most of the illustrators were well-known. Many were artists, and the publishers were gambling that they could adapt their skills to the task required of them." He added that the results were mixed, praising Andrew Wyeth for his illustrations for *The Brandywine* (1941), while suggesting that painter John Steuart Curry's apparent lack of interest in illustrating *The Wisconsin* (1942) led to a product that was, at best, "uneven."



David Taylor

**Wilma Dykeman, author of *The French Broad*, shows a paperback version of her volume in the Rivers of America series, held by collector and series bibliographer Carol Fitzgerald.**

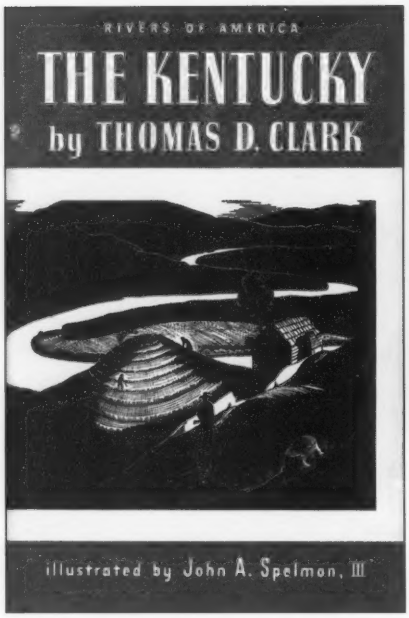


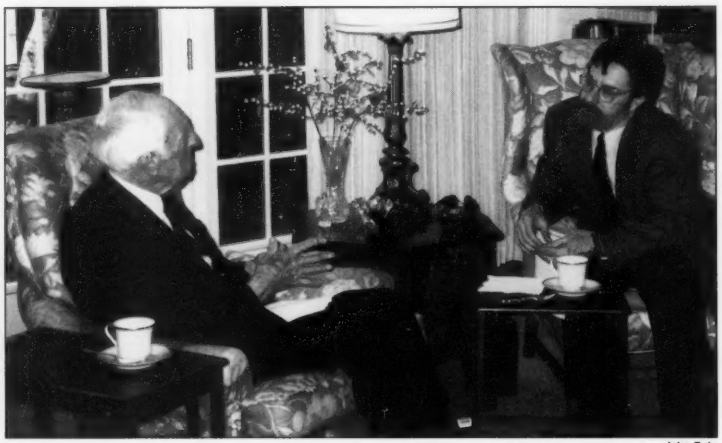

After a celebratory dinner on the evening of April 9, panel discussions on April 10 stirred reminiscences. William D. Ellis, author of *The Cuyahoga* (1966), recalled a brief set of instructions he received from editor Carl Carmer before he began his research while traveling "his" river. "Carl sent a three-sentence message which read, 'Stay close to the river. Do well by the cities — that's where the book stores are. And make it a literary book.'"

Richard Matthews admitted that he approached the editors of *The Yukon* (1968) because he saw the assignment as a way to pay for his first trip to Alaska. "They wanted a local writer to cover it so I became local. I wound up living in the state for more than 15 years," Mr. Matthews said.

Margaret Sanborn, author of *The American: River of El Dorado*, was originally asked to write about the Snake River but said she decided to look closer to home in her native California. "I started doing some research and found out that the American River was an influential feature in the discovery of gold in the West of 1848-49," she said, adding, "It was one of the seminal events in U.S. history. Outside of the Crusades, the Gold Rush was the greatest voluntary migration in the world."

James Taylor Dunn, author of *The St. Croix* (1965), quietly wrote a book



John Cole

**Thomas Clark, author of *The Kentucky*, is interviewed by David Taylor (right) of the American Folklife Center.**

on the river he had visited each summer while growing up, abruptly presenting a complete manuscript to his editor eight years after casually suggesting that one should be written. One of his editors, Jean Crawford, spotted some inaccuracies in the text. "She realized the dimensions I used to describe it would have fit it in my living room," he said, adding that she also criticized his limited coverage of life on the river's banks. "'You know, the river has two sides'," she told me, suggesting that I cover not only the Minnesota side but the Wisconsin side as well."

Wilma Dykeman, author of *The French Broad* (1955) said her proposal met with raised eyebrows from her New York publisher. "I didn't realize that they were so provincial at Farrar Rinehart that they didn't know I was referring to a river in Tennessee," she said. The company turned down her proposal at first, calling the river too small to be included. "But they left a crack in the door," she added, "writing me that, if the story behind it was interesting enough, they'd consider a book about a river no wider than a man's hand. I responded, 'Well, as I recall, a man wrote a book about a pond once that did pretty well."

Ms. Dykeman's sample chapter about a long, adventure-filled hog drive led the editors to respond, "This is wonderful. Where's the rest of it?" "Among 'the rest of it' I included in my outline [was] a chapter about the pollution of the river," she continued. "I'd learned that one of the tributaries leading into the river was so fouled, nothing could live in it. They thought readers in 1955 would find the chapter dull. I was determined to keep it in and offered to call the chapter 'Who Killed the French Broad' and make it sound like a murder mystery."

In the end, Ms. Dykeman's fascination with the topic was vindicated. "That chapter got more attention than any other in the book by reviewers from South Carolina to San Francisco," she said. "The editors were glad we included it."

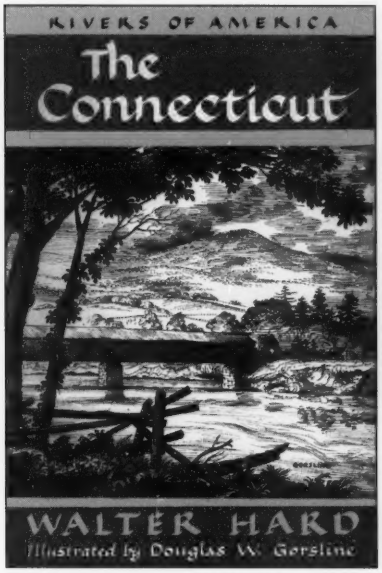
Thomas D. Clark, author of *The Kentucky* (1942), described the hard-scrabble existence of river dwellers and workers. One day he followed a local police officer in search of "Turtleneck Eversoll" a longtime river resident whom the local police described as a "constant customer" at the jail due to his habit of being arrested for public drunkenness. "He'd just gotten out of jail that morning and we spotted a forlorn figure riding on a log raft to his houseboat on the river," said Mr. Clark. "When the policeman called out to him, he turned around and said, 'What did I do now?' He told me remarkable stories about his life as an oarsmen on rafts, bringing timber downstream from the Appalachians."

Mr. Clark called the Kentucky a "heartland river, despite its location in a single state. It runs with blood from the blood feuds fought in the hills and the timber floating down it tell the tale of mountaineers selling off their birthright for almost a mess of pottage."

Illustrators of four books in the series reminisced about their experiences as well.

George Loh had worked in advertising for many years and was able to apply his experience illustrating a book on Yankee loggers for a paper company in illustrating *The Allagash* (1968).

Harry Heim, illustrator of *The Minnesota* (1962), gained much of his experience drawing for the U.S. military newspaper *Stars and Stripes*. He worked at a printing plant while stationed in Germany. Its employees had worked on a newsletter Adolf Hitler published during World War II. Gerald




Hazzard, illustrator of *The St. Croix* was stationed in Great Britain during the war. "Most of the other illustrators submitted pen-and-ink drawings but mine were different," he noted. "I did them in charcoal pencil for a 'softer' approach." Mr. Hazzard's negotiations with the book's publishers differed from those arranged by his colleagues: He retained ownership of the drawings, which later sold for more money than he had received on their publication in the book. "I got more accolades for that project than any that had come before," he said.

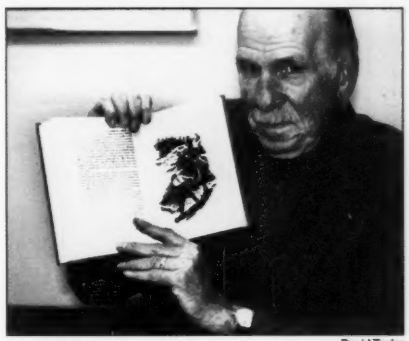
Aaron Kessler, illustrator of *The Merrimack* (1958), had previously worked with such authors as Norman Mailer and Vladimir Nabokov, for whom he designed the cover for the first edition of *Lolita*. Like most authors and illustrators, he did field work, visiting sites along the river. "I spent two weeks traveling from Massachusetts to New Hampshire," he recalled. "Many of the sights I saw — small towns, mill workers' housing — didn't exist 10 years afterward."

Several authors had stories to tell about the illustrators they collaborated with on their books. Ms. Dykeman recalled that the first illustration presented by Douglas Gorsline for the cover of *The French Broad* featured a voluptuous "Daisy Mae"-like character, causing much consternation. But then Mr. Gorsline casually mentioned that he'd drawn an alternative version and, to the relief of everyone, presented a more appropriate design that was actually used as the book's cover.

David Taylor

John Cole of the Center for the Book chats with *The St. Croix* author James Dunn and his wife, Maria; Harry Heim shows one of his illustrations from *The Minnesota;* George Loh holds up a sample page from *The Allagash*, which he illustrated.

David Taylor



David Taylor

At lunchtime, Pace Barnes, managing editor of the series from 1967 to 1974, paid tribute to associate editor Jean Crawford, who was "the direct link" between the authors and Holt, Rinehart & Winston. "The publication of the series was a miracle, and it's a miracle we're all here today," she said.

In the afternoon, "Rivers of America" collector Alexander C. McLeod offered a statistical analysis. He pointed out that the series covered 104 rivers and that Ernest Clegg's map produced for the series in 1942 named 169 rivers and traced many more unnamed ones.

Before closing the conference, Mr. Cole asked the audience to suggest strategies to enhance the series' quality and dissemination. Mr. Cole added that, in addition to sponsoring this conference, the Center for the Book will serve as a clearinghouse of information about future projects.

*— Ms. Bryant is a writer-editor in the Development Office.*

# News from the Center for the Book

## *Four-Year 'Rivers of America' Project Announced*

The literary, historical and environmental heritage of America's rivers will be examined and celebrated in "Rivers of America," a new Library of Congress educational project that will continue through the year 2000, when the Library marks its bicentenary.

Aimed primarily at the general public, teachers and students, the project's purpose is to stimulate public interest in reading, literacy, history and the environment. It is being organized by the Center for the Book; other Library of Congress participants include LC's American Folklife Center and, in the future, the Geography and Map Division and the National Digital Library Program. Historical and environmental organizations outside the Library of Congress also are being asked to assist.

"The project was inspired by the 'Rivers of America' series that we celebrated at the Library of Congress on April 9 and 10," said Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole. "This remarkable book series, which included 65 volumes about individual rivers published between 1937 and 1974, combined good writing, regional and local history, and a concern for place and community. The new project also will incorporate environmental issues. We will encourage the reprinting and updating of previously published volumes and the publication of new 'Rivers' books — particularly, a new series for young people. Many of our 32 affiliated state centers for the book will become involved through partnerships at the regional and state levels."

David Taylor

Mr. Cole also noted that with the help of former Poet Laureate Robert Hass and the International Rivers Network, the new project "hopes to inspire young people to become directly involved with the land, landscape and environment in which they live." The first step in this direction, he said, is the Center for the Book's co-sponsorship of the `River of Words' national environmental poetry and art contest for young people in grades in K-12." (see story on page 209).

The new 'Rivers of America' project was announced on April 9 at a dinner during the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the original Rivers of America book series (see story on page 204). The 80 guests included more than a dozen authors, illustrators and editors of the original book series, along with many of their family members, as well as several descendants of the authors and illustrators. Speakers during the dinner program included John Cole; "Rivers of America" books collector Carol Fitzgerald and Muriel Caplan of Henry Holt & Co., which supported the event through a contribution to the Center for the Book. The evening concluded with performances of "music from the 'Rivers of America'" by fiddle player Alan Jabbour, director of the American Folklife Center, and vocalist Joe Hickerson, folklife specialist in the AFC. The American Folklife Center is interviewing the authors, illustrators and editors, and adding the resulting audio and video tapes and photographs to its collections.

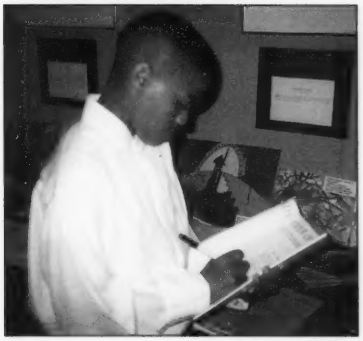
A highlight on April 9-10 was an exhibition of Rivers of America books and related research materials from Ms. Fitzgerald's private collection. Two exhibit cases featured first editions, often signed, of books written or illustrated by symposium participants: *The Allagash, The American, The Chagres, The Cuyahoga, The French Broad, The Kentucky, The Merrimack, The Minnesota, The St. Croix* and *The Yukon*. These volumes were supplemented by first editions of other books of special interest to the guests, including *The Brandywine, The Everglades, The Genesee, The Kennebec, The Potomac* and *Rivers of the Eastern Shore*.

David Taylor

**Author Margaret Sanborn *(The American: River of El Dorado)* spoke and fiddler Alan Jabbour performed at the "Rivers of America" 60th anniversary event.**

# 'River of Words'

## *Student Contest Winners Honored*



John Cole

Daniel Butler, grade 8, Stuart Hobson Middle School, was the D.C. regional winner.

"To you students, I would say this: learning your watershed should be an adventure and so should expressing it in poems and art. I hope you'll bring all of your natural energy and imagination to it. It doesn't matter whether you live in the city or in the country; water runs through it that supports your life. Your imaginations run through the place where you live like the water does. So I wish you watery minds and earthy minds and airy minds — and fiery minds. And all of us involved with 'River of Words' hope you have fun with this project."

*– Robert Hass*
*Poet Laureate, 1995-97*

The 10 student winners of the 1997 "River of Words" national environmental poetry and art contest were honored at the Library of Congress on May 3 during a reading and awards ceremony. This day at the Library — also enjoyed by the students' teachers and parents — was hosted by the Center for the Book, the International Rivers Network and Mr. Hass, who served as moderator for the ceremony.

The "River of Words" project builds community awareness about the importance of river, creek and wetlands conservation efforts by encouraging young people to learn their personal "ecological address" and to describe, through poetry and art, their own "place in space." The project also links educators to conservation organizations and bookstores, libraries and creative artists in a national effort to understand and mobilize support for local watershed protection. Designed to increase awareness and understanding of the natural world and its connection to artistic expression and the human spirit, the project also encourages participation in National Poetry Month and Earth Day, both celebrated each April.

"The 'River of Words' project helps the Center for the Book fulfill one of the principal goals of its new 'Rivers of America' project — sparking the interest of young people in the world they inhabit," said John Y. Cole, the center's director. "Every river has a story to tell, a story that brings literature, history, folklore and environmental concerns to the fore."

**Winning Poem**
Category II (Grades 3-6)

**"Animals in Snow"**
*by Gerrell Scribner, grade 4*
*Eel River Charter School,*
*Covelo, Calif.*

For I was dark
now am light.
For I was brown
now am white.

For I was summer
now am snow.
Upon my back
the seasons grow.

And so I change.

I reproduce
upon my hide
the wintering
I feel inside.

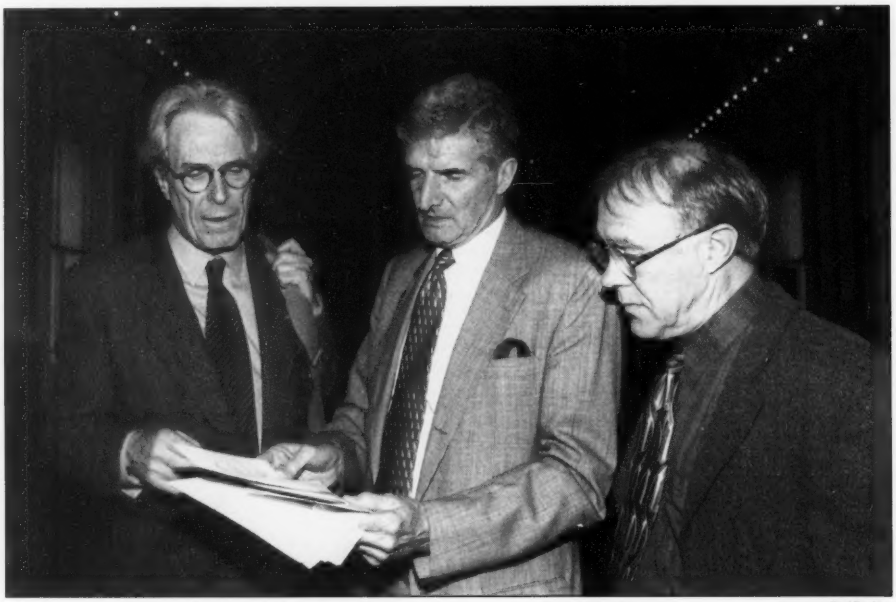
John Cole

Tobi Earnheart-Gold, grade 4, Bolinas-Stinson School, was the San Francisco Bay area winner.

This year's winners, who read their poems and displayed their art at the Library, were announced by Mr. Hass at the San Francisco Public Library on April 8. The contest winners (four grand prize winners in poetry and four in art, representing four age categories) plus regional winners from the San Francisco Bay area and the Washington, D.C., area, were chosen by a panel of judges headed by Hass and Germaine Juneau, director of the International Children's Art Museum.

The deadline for submitting entries for next year's "River of "Words" contest is Feb. 15, 1998. For information, contact the International Rivers Network, 1847 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94703. The e-mail address is row@irn.org; the web site is http://www.irn.org.

Principal funders of the "Rivers of Words" project are the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Rhode Island Foundation and the Center for Ecoliteracy. Goods and services were contributed by the American Booksellers Association; Bantam/Doubleday/Dell; Magnetic Poetry; Amsterdam Art; and *American Way*, the magazine of American Airlines.



Jim Higgins

**Former Poet Laureate Mark Strand (left) and cormer Poet Laureate Robert Hass (right) flank Prosser Gifford, director of Scholarly Programs at the Library, during the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Library's poetry program.**

# Time for Poetry

## *Poets Gather for 60th Anniversary*

As Robert Hass looked out at the large crowd gathered for an afternoon reading on April 24 celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Library of Congress poetry program, he had one word to say: "Wow."

After a pause, he said, "I wish everybody in this room could come up here one at a time and see this."

The combined effect of the crowd and the glories of the newly renovated Northwest Pavilion of the Jefferson Building rendered the nation's poet laureate temporarily speechless. But he recovered and announced he would begin the program by reading a poem by former Consultant in Poetry Elizabeth Bishop. The poem was "View of the Capitol from the Library of Congress." It was a view familiar to all the poets, as the Poetry Office on the top floor of the Jefferson Building overlooks the Capitol across the street.

Eleven former consultants and poets laureate participated in the readings, which were given in two parts. Mr. Hass, Anthony Hecht, Mark Strand, Mona Van Duyn and Reed Whittemore read at 4:30 p.m., and Rita Dove, Daniel Hoffman, Maxine Kumin, Stanley Kunitz, William Meredith and William Jay Smith read at 8 p.m. Of the surviving alumni who had been consultants, five were unable to attend. Gwendolyn Brooks and Richard Wilbur had long-standing previous engagements. Josephine Jacobsen and Karl Shapiro were kept away by poor health.

The specific duties of the poet laureate have always been kept to a minimum, in order (in the official language of the Library of Congress) "to afford incumbents maximum freedom to work on their own projects." But poets are sensitive to their environment. Eventually Washington works its will, as Mr. Hass learned when he was asked to write something for Justice William Brennan's retirement from the Supreme Court. At first he declined the offer, only to awaken the next morning with what he called a "mildly official" poem wanting to be written after all. The poem was "The Woods in New Jersey," which he read next. It describes a winter woods, with tree trunks likened to "Vertical musics the cold makes visible,/ That holds the whole thing up and gives it form."

Call that, Mr. Hass writes, "the law, more of interests than of reasons." He then remarks on deer, "so much the color of the trees, they hardly seem to move."

After he read the poem, Mr. Hass said Justice Brennan had once asked

him, "Am I the deer?" The poet left the answer unsaid, presumedly to keep the poem only "mildly" official.

Mr. Hass closed his turn at reading with two more poems from his latest volume, *Sun Under Wood*, "Iowa City: Early April" and "Jatun Sacha." Both poems address human encounters with the natural world and the exchange of being that sustains both. In the former, a raccoon is caught in a flashlight:

"I was thinking he couldn't know how charming his comic-book/ robber's mask was to me,/ That his experience of his being and mine of his and his of mine/ were things entirely apart/ Though there were between us, probably, energies of shrewd and/ respectful tack, based on curiosity and fear –"

Reed Whittemore read next. He followed Mr. Hass's lead in reading first a poem by another consultant. This time it was a prose poem by Karl Shapiro, one appropriate for a reunion. The poem contrasts two voyages, widely separated by time, that Mr. Shapiro made on the *Queen Mary*. On the first, he was bound for Europe as a soldier during World War II. On the second, he was a paying passenger, addressed as "sir." The ship is the same, but the man has changed.

Mr. Whittemore then introduced a poem of his own, "Today," based on a lecture he once gave about "how to misunderstand poetry." Taking aim at critics and publishers, he said, "I want to climb up some big publishing mountain and wear a skullcap." "The Schools" followed next, a poem about the pull of the past in the form of college alumni offices that will just not "let go." Mr. Whittemore's uneasy relationship with the intractable nature of words was the subject of "The Word Man," while "The Old Cap" explored the "meteorology of thought," and "Reveille" the physics of getting out of bed in the morning. Mr. Whittemore closed with a reading of "The Eumenides," written, he explained, "because the word sounds so good."

Jim Higgins

**Lyn Chase (president of the American Academy of Poets) makes a point to three former consultants and poets laureate: Stanley Kunitz, Mona Van Duyn and William Jay Smith.**

Jim Higgins

**Reed Whittemore (right) catches up with fellow consultant William Jay Smith.**

Mark Strand began with a poem called "In Memory of Joseph Brodsky," the former poet laureate who died last year, followed by an untitled poem about the passage of time. He also read "The Beach Hotel," "Old Man Leaves Party," "A Piece of the Storm" and "What It Was."

Mona Van Duyn acknowledged the absent Richard Wilbur by reading one of his poems. She then followed with one of her own that drew a parallel between two types of gardens and two types of poetry. The gardens are the Japanese and English styles, the first characterized by "trivialities arranged to look significant" and the second by acres of land and huge vistas punctuated with a "folly."

Ms. Van Duyn ended on a light note, with a poem about the enduring differences of marriage, "Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sprat in the Kitchen," occasioned by making spaghetti with her husband. (He prefers to measure.) She then introduced Anthony Hecht, who read three poems, "Sisters," based on a letter Robert Frost wrote to his sister who was in a lunatic asylum in Maine, and "Blue Interior with Two Girls, 1947," based on a Matisse painting.

The afternoon of readings ended where it began, on the subject of absent poets. Anthony Hecht read "Death for the Poet: A Lament for the Makers." The poem used a Latin refrain that translates, "and now I sleep in the dust," leaving the audience to wonder to whom these words might apply at the next reunion.

*— Craig D'Ooge*

*Mr. D'Ooge is Media Director in the Public Affairs Office.*

# Library Names American Memory Fellows

## *50 Educators to Participate in NDL Educators Institute*

Dr. Billington has announced the selection of 50 educators to participate in the American Memory Fellows Program. This new outreach effort will bring teams of outstanding middle and high school humanities teachers and library/media specialists to the Library to aid them in the use of technology to support the teaching of American history and culture.

"This is an important and exciting opportunity for the Library to share more broadly its valuable historical primary source materials and to become partners with educators to bring this material to schools across the nation," said Dr. Billington. "We hope the 50 participants will then tell others what they have learned, thereby expanding the reach of the Fellows Program."

AMERICAN MEMORY

The American Memory Fellows, consisting of 25 two-person teams, will gather at the Library for a National Digital Library Educators Institute, July 28–Aug. 1. Fellows will learn about the Library's digitized American Memory collections, which includes primary-source photographs, documents, sound recordings and motion pictures in American history and culture, available at http://www.loc.gov/. During the Educators Institute, the Fellows will enrich their understanding of how the Library's unique electronic resources can be used by students and educators across the country. For example, they will create interactive "teaching units" based on the Library's American Memory collections.

During school year 1997-1998, Fellows will test their teaching units in the classroom and revise them for eventual dissemination to the K-12 education community through both the Library's World Wide Web site and at professional education forums nationwide. Teaching unit ideas submitted by the selected American Memory Fellows include projects on "One Day in the Life of an American," "The U.S. History Time Machine" and multimedia projects on local history, immigration and the westward movement.

The 25 American Memory Fellows teams, selected by an independent review panel from 165 teams of applicants, comprise teachers, librarians, curriculum coordinators, media specialists and other educational professionals from across the nation. Those chosen to participate are already well experienced in using technology in the classroom. They have used primary sources to motivate students and promote critical thinking as well as to help students relate history to their own lives. Each Fellow is an active leader in the field of education and has the ability to disseminate his or her expertise to local educators.

As part of their participation, American Memory Fellows will also cooperate throughout the school year in an on-line National Digital Library Teacher Network. Through this forum, Fellows will exchange ideas and learn from each other through organized on-line discussion groups.

The American Memory Fellows Program is part of the National Digital Library Program, which aims to digitize, in collaboration with other institutions, millions of American history items from the Library of Congress and other repositories by the year 2000, the Library's 200th anniversary. The Library's Web site (http://www.loc.gov/) already makes available more than 400,000 items, including portraits of the presidents and first ladies; documents relating to slavery, the civil rights movement, and women's suffrage; political speeches and oral histories; and early motion pictures.

The National Digital Library Educators Institute is made possible by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, which is helping the Library reach out to the K-12 education community.

A list of the American Memory Fellows teams follows:

# American Memory Fellows

**Team 1**

John L. Day
Instructional Specialist, Social Studies
Montgomery County Public Schools
Rockville MD 20850

Robert P. Hines
Social Studies Resource Teacher
Richard Montgomery High School
Rockville MD 20852

**Team 2**

William R. Fernekes
Supervisor of Social Studies
Hunterdon Central Regional High School
Flemington NJ 08822

Harlene Z. Rosenberg
Supervisor
Instructional Media Center
Hunterdon Central Regional High School
Flemington NJ 08822

**Team 3**

Patrice E. Wagner
Teacher/Advisor
Central Park East Secondary School
New York NY 10029

Gerri M. Appel
Library
Media Specialist
Central Park East Secondary School
New York NY 10029

**Team 4**

Monica Edinger
Senior Teachers
The Dalton School
New York NY 10128

Cory Brandt
Director, Libraries and Information Services
The Dalton School
New York NY 10128

**Team 5**

Eva L. Abbamonte
Social Studies Teacher
Hunter College High School
New York NY 10128

Della Barr Brooks
Instructor
Teachers College
Columbia University
New York NY 10027

**Team 6**

Linda C. Joseph
Library Media Specialist
Library Media Services
Columbus Public Schools
Columbus OH 43211

Jane Hoover
Teacher
West High School
Columbus Public Schools
Columbus OH 43204

**Team 7**

Paul S. Filio
Teacher
Hughes Center
Cincinnatti OH 45219

Carolyn F. Kindle
Librarian
Hughes Center
Cincinnatti OH 45219

**Team 8**

Barbara L. Wysocki
Instructor/Social Studies Department Chair
University Laboratory High School
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana IL 61801

Frances F. Jacobson
Librarian
University Laboratory High School
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Urbana IL 61801

**Team 9**

Christine Fricke
Media Specialist
Fox Hill Elementary School
Indianapolis IN 46228

Glenda Ritz
5th Grade Teacher
Fox Hill Elementary School
Indianapolis IN 46228

**Team 10**

Mickey L. Bogart
Social Studies Department Chair
Manhattan High School
Manhattan KS 66502

James C. Bogart
Library
Media Specialist
Manhattan High School
Manhattan KS 66502

**Team 11**

Michael Federspiel
Social Studies Department Head
H.H. Dow High School
Midland MI 48640

Timothy D. Hall
Assistant Professor
History
Central Michigan University
Mt. Pleasant MI 48859

**Team 12**

Michael Young
Social Studies Dept. Chair/Teacher
Omaha Burke High School
Omaha NE 68154

Carol Nickerson
Information Manager
Omaha Burke High School
Omaha NE 68154

**Team 13**

David Berry
English Teacher
Orange Grove Middle School
Tucson AZ 85718

Jeff Wadman
Social Studies Teacher
Orange Grove Middle School
Tucson AZ 85718

**Team 14**

Richard del Rio
Teacher
Muirlands Middle School
La Jolla CA 92037

Carol Kuhl Barry
Teacher
Muirlands Middle School
La Jolla CA 92037

**Team 15**

Peter G. Milbury
Librarian
Chico High School
Chico CA 95926

Brett Narciso Silva
Teacher
Pleasant Valley High School
Orland CA 95963

**Team 16**

Kathleen Ferenz
American History Teacher
Ben Franklin Intermediate
Colma CA 94109

Leni Dolan
Technology Coordinator
Town School For Boys
San Francisco CA 94115

**Team 17**

Cynthia Stout
Teacher
Summit Ridge Middle School
Littleton CO 80127

Ray Taylor
Teacher
Summit Ridge Middle School
Littleton CO 80127

**Team 18**

Rebecca Kolb
Teacher
Middle College High School
Memphis TN 38174

Martha Louise Callahan
Teacher
Middle College High School
Memphis TN 38174-0568

**Team 19**

Gerald Thurmond
Teacher
Westbury High School
Houston TX 77035

Kenneth Estrella
Teacher
Westbury High School
Houston TX 77035

**Team 20**

Kevin Randolph
Chair, Social Studies
N. Shore Co. Day School
Winnetka IL 60093

Alan Fraker
Chair, History
Deerfield Academy
Deerfield MA 01342

Team 21

Nancy Kerwin
Media Specialist
Chelsea Public School
Chelsea VT 05038

Joelen Mulvaney
Social Studies Teacher
Chelsea Public School
Chelsea VT 05038

**Team 22**

Laura Wakefield
History Teacher
Neptune Middle School
Kissimmee FL 34744

Joy Penny
Gifted Education Social Studies/Science
Neptune Middle School
Kissimmee FL 34744

**Team 23**

Jackie Brooks
Social Studies Teacher
Ligon Middle School
Raleigh NC 27601

Deborah Pendelton
Media Specialist
Ligon Middle School
Raleigh NC 27601

**Team 24**

Agnes Dunn
Social Studies
Stafford County Schools
Stafford VA 22554

Eric Powell
Teacher
Stafford High School
Falmouth VA 22405

**Team 25**

Douglas Perry, Teacher
Peninsula High School
Gig Harbor WA 98332

Wendy Sauer, Teacher
Mercer Island High School
Mercer Island WA 98040

Rep. Thomas Bliley (R-Va.), Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-Fla.) and Winston Tabb, associate librarian for Library Services, enjoy the Rio Field Office's 30th anniversary celebration.

# Rio Office Celebrates 30th Anniversary

## *U.S. Consulate Hosts Event*

On March 24, the Rio de Janeiro Field Office of the Library celebrated its 30th anniversary with exchange partners, consulate colleagues, former employees and Brazilian dignitaries. On hand were Winston Tabb, associate librarian for Library Services, and Georgette Dorn, chief of the Hispanic Division. A U.S. congressional delegation headed by Rep. Thomas Bliley (R-Va.) also joined in the festivities.

Nelida Piñon, writer and president of the Brazilian Academy of Letters, shares a word with James Derham, U.S. Consul General at the celebration.

The event was held at the U.S. Consulate in Rio de Janeiro. After comments by Consul General James Derham, Mr. Tabb described the "globalization" of the Library's resources and LC's cooperative projects with key Brazilian institutions. Mr. Tabb emphasized that early in the Library's history, books from abroad figured prominently in the collections. "Regular exchange of official documents between countries, established by law in 1840, has enabled the Library to receive some 300,000 documents from 15,000 partners worldwide." Today more than two-thirds of the Library's collections are non-English. As the Library grew, special reading rooms were created; the Hispanic Room was established in 1939."

Mr. Tabb said that the Rio office, like the Library itself, is involved not only in acquisitions but also preservation, such as a joint microfilming project of the Library and the Brazilian National Library. He also noted that the recent adoption of MARC formats in several important Brazilian institutions is an important step in the exchange of bibliographic data between the United States and Brazil.

Ms. Dorn spoke about the numerous Brazilian authors recorded — often in the Rio Consulate facility — for LC's Archive of World Literature on Tape.

"The Rio Field Office has been of immense assistance to the contributing editors of the *Handbook of Latin American Studies*," which is edited at the Library. Jose Mindlin, a Brazilian industrialist whose collection of rare books is the largest in Latin America, said that "the existence of an office of the Library of Congress in Brazil is an eloquent demonstration of interest in our country and in Brazilian culture. I know of no other foreign institution that has done the same thing."

Other speakers included Celina Vargas do Amaral Peixoto, director of the Getulio Vargas Foundation; Marta de Senna, chief of staff of the National Library Foundation; Ann Hartness, assistant director of the Benson Latin American Collection of the University of Texas, who represented the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM); and Nelida Piñon, president of the Brazilian Academy of Letters and one of the 91 Brazilian authors in the Archive of World Literature on Tape. The Rio office's longtime book dealer from Uruguay, Juan Risso, presented the office with a plaque in recognition of "professionalism, love for the book and labors in favor of Uruguayan culture."

A representative from the Brazilian National Library (from left) demonstrates preservation techniques to Pamela Howard-Reguindin, Marilyn Tabb, Winston Tabb, Carmen Muricy and Georgette Dorn.

Then, on behalf of Dr. Billington, Winston Tabb presented Carmen Muricy, senior acquisitions librarian in Rio, with a Meritorious Service Award for 29 years of outstanding performance.

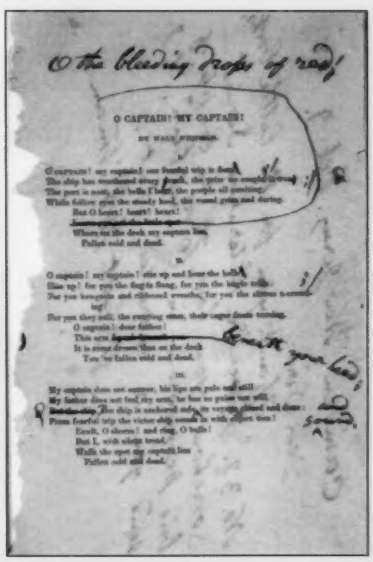
*— Pamela Howard-Reguindin*

*Ms. Howard-Reguindin is director of the Rio Field Office.*

# 'O Captain! My Captain!'

Walt Whitman wrote this poem for the death of Abraham Lincoln in 1865, published it to immediate acclaim in the *Saturday Press* and saw it widely anthologized during his lifetime. While the most innovative of American poets, Whitman in this poem used rhymed, rhythmically regular verse to create a somber yet exalted tone. Restlessly creative, Whitman continued to revise the poem. Here is a proof sheet of the poem, readied for publication in 1888, with corrections. The Library holds the largest collection of Walt Whitman materials, featuring more than 20,000 manuscript items alone.

This item is currently on display in the Library's permanent exhibition "American Treasures of the Library of Congress." Because of their fragility, items on display will be periodically changed. The exhibition is on view Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Thomas Jefferson Building, 10 First St. S.E. A guide to "American Treasures" is published by Harry N. Abrams Inc.


O the bleeding drops of red!

O CAPTAIN! MY CAPTAIN!

BY WALT WHITMAN.

I.

O captain! my captain! our fearful trip is done,
The ship has weather'd every rock, the prize we sought is won,
The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,
While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring:
But O heart! heart! heart!
O the bleeding drops of red!
Where on the deck my captain lies,
Fallen cold and dead.

II.

O captain! my captain! rise up and hear the bells;
Rise up! for you the flag is flung, for you the bugle trills,
For you bouquets and ribbon'd wreaths, for you the shores a-crowding,
For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning;
O captain! dear father!
This arm beneath your head!
It is some dream that on the deck
You've fallen cold and dead.

III.

My captain does not answer, his lips are pale and still,
My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse nor will,
The ship is anchored safe and sound, its voyage closed and done,
From fearful trip the victor ship comes in with object won;
Exult, O shores! and ring, O bells!
But I, with silent tread,
Walk the spot my captain lies
Fallen cold and dead.

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